

## **Section 7042**

(October 2002)

7042	Civil Disturbance
7042.1	Bomb Response
7042.1.1	Bomb Threat Response
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When members respond to or are at the scene of a civil disturbance escalating beyond to scope of routine law enforcement, they may be called upon to operate within a disturbance area or protect department facilities. Due to the volatile nature of these situations chief officers and company officers shall maintain close discipline of all activities in the disturbance area.

Although there will be exceptions, the policy of providing fire protection must hinge on adequate police protection of fire forces. No firefighting units should be sent into a disturbance area unless absolutely necessary. Task force leaders have the authority to pull out of any situation when they feel the risk to their members outweighs the potential of the situation. Task force leaders also have the authority to abandon burning buildings or other firefighting endeavors if their efforts to control the fire will not substantially reduce losses and their efforts can be better utilized elsewhere.

The following steps will be taken to ensure the safety of firefighters in civil disturbance situations:

- For the safety of firefighters all members ride inside the apparatus with the windows rolled up. All members wear full protective gear (flak vests if available), stay together and protect the pump operator.
- Formulate a "strike team or task force" type of fire attack operation; designate minimum amounts of personnel and equipment to be assigned to fire responses.
- Select staging areas for task force or strike team personnel and equipment.
- Always be ready to withdraw if firefighters come under attack. Retreat as a group if attacked.
- Identify "No Response" zones and ensure all personnel are aware of them.
- Remove exterior equipment on vehicles that can be used as weapons.
- Do not use red lights and sirens (draws attention and promotes ambushing). Maintain communications with the task force leader. Have a pre-designated withdrawal signal.
- Carry drinking water on board. Take frequent breaks to eat or rest; manage fatigue.

It may be necessary that departmental structures, personnel, and equipment be provided armed protection. This is primarily the responsibility of the CHP, local police chief or county sheriff, but circumstances might dictate that CDF peace officers are used instead.

In a rapidly expanding disturbance situation, local law enforcement agencies will need their forces to quell the disturbance. This may leave departmental structures, personnel, and equipment without protection by other than available department personnel. Those facilities that are vital to continued operations should receive protection. Other structures, located within or adjacent to a disturbance area may not be vital to continued operations. Judgment may indicate that they be locked and abandoned. In situations of this nature, it should be determined before the disturbance to what degree or extent vital structures or equipment may need to be protected. Determinations made by local administrative personnel must prevail as the gravity of the disturbance develops.

When a civil disturbance situation occurs CDF may provide armed peace officers to protect department personnel.

Deliberately damaged or blocked hydrants should be anticipated and contingency plans for water supply developed. Water tenders will be part of the task force. Long lays from hydrants will not be used. Because of the possibility of slashed lines, interior firefighting should be suspended unless proper police protection is on the scene.

Reference: [CDF HB 7742.4 Protection of Structures \(93\)](#), [7742.6 Operational Plan for Civil Disturbances \(93\)](#)

## **BOMB RESPONSE** (October 2002)

### **7042.1**

When responders respond to incidents where there are suspected explosive devices such as pipe bombs, letter bombs or other explosive devices, responders will NOT handle them in any manner. Unless specifically trained and certified, responders will not assist with the rendering safe of suspected devices. CDF'S primary role at suspected bomb and/or devices is firefighting in the event of an explosion. The following is a checklist of required immediate action:

- Coordinate with Local Law Enforcement for required assistance.
- Turn off vehicle and/or portable radio within a half mile of incident scene.
- Notify ECC of Radio Silence.
- Stage a minimum of 900 feet away from suspected device.
- **DO NOT** approach, move or touch the suspected device.
- Move the people away from the suspected device.
- Evacuate the immediate area and deny entry.
- Gather as much information as possible from local jurisdiction scene managers.
- Ensure closest available bomb squad personnel are notified and are responding
- Beware of **SECONDARY** Devices.

## **BOMB THREAT RESPONSE**

**7042.1.1**

(October 2002)

When responders respond to incidents where a bomb threat has been received, they will NOT search for the suspected device. All initial searches will be conducted by occupants and personnel controlling the premise.

- **CDF's primary role at bomb threats is firefighting in the event of an explosion.**
- Turn off vehicle and/or portable radio within a half mile of incident scene.
- Companies will maintain a safe distance.
- Stand by for possible explosion.
- Assist law enforcement with evacuation if necessary.

### **EXCEPTION:**

CDF Arson and Bomb Investigators are qualified to conduct searches and render safe/disposal of bombs, explosives, and improvised explosive devices.

## **RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ACTS**

**7042.2**

(October 2002)

CDF Personnel may be dispatched to known or unknown terrorist attacks involving the use of Biological, Chemical or Nuclear weapons. Once members become aware of the possibility of an incident involving Biological, Chemical or Nuclear weapons they shall initiate appropriate protective measures. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- CDF Personnel will coordinate with law enforcement personnel.
- CDF personnel will not approach any device unless informed it is safe to do so by a qualified person.
- Approach upwind and upgrade of the incident.
- Stage an appropriate distance from the suspected weapons.
  - Emergency Response Guide for Devices containing HazMat
  - 900' in all directions for Devices containing Explosives
- Identify if the location is a Target Hazard.
  - Type of occupancy
  - Known threats against location

- Outward warning signs.
  - Mass casualty with minimal or no trauma
  - Graffiti
  - Responder casualties
  - Dead animals
  - Unusual odors, vapor clouds, color of smoke
- Assess Security of the scene.
  - Has a Weapon functioned yet?
  - Has the type of weapon been identified?
  - Has a search for Secondary Devices been conducted?
  - Are potential Suspects present?
  - Is Law Enforcement Present?
- Ensure that specialized units have been requested, if needed.
  - Hazardous Materials Teams
  - Bomb Squad
  - Military
- Ensure personnel accountability.
- Conduct a cursory search for additional threats in areas prior to establishing Command Post or Staging Areas.
- Do not enter threat zones unless there is an immediate life safety threat, and then only if you are properly equipped with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.
- Never attempt to handle, move, or render-safe any potential weapon. (Exception: CDF personnel who are certified Hazardous Device Technicians or Hazardous Materials Technicians may mitigate hazards which fall within their area of expertise.)
- Identify evacuation signal for responders and rally points (re-grouping areas, different than staging areas, for responders) in the event of trouble.
- Assign observers, whose responsibility it is to identify approaching threats (different than Safety Officer, they are looking for threats from outside, not from unsafe work practices).
- Assess decontamination requirements.
- Consider as a potential crime scene.
  - Everything should be treated as a potential evidence
  - Coordinate with Law Enforcement

### **EXCEPTION:**

CDF Arson and Bomb Investigators are qualified to conduct searches and render safe/disposal of bombs, explosives, and improvised explosive devices.

[\(see next section\)](#)

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